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This document contains information referring to Project IDEALIST

IDEA 0887
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12 September 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: James A. Cunningham, Jr.
Acting Assistant Director, OSA

25X1A SUBJECT : [redacted] Mission 127

1. It is quite evident in comparing the fate of GRC 127 to the famous May 1 mission of Sverdlovsk, one can readily discern that we are consistent in our misfortune. The lack of knowledge which we now have on the fate of GRC 127 is not at all unlike the paucity of information that plagued us on May 1, 1960. In both instances, [redacted] 25X1 think that everyone will agree that the manner in which the May 1 incident was handled would have been entirely different had we known the fate of the pilot and had some information as to the sequence of events surrounding the incident.

2. Some 2 1/2 years later, we now find ourselves with another incident and yet no more info concerning that incident than we did on May 1. The laymen would think, and you must confess that we are dealing with laymen in this great Government of ours, that we, CIA, would have taken some measures to install some type of communications in the U-2 aircraft which would permit the pilot to advise a monitoring [redacted] STATION of any difficulty he may encounter while en route.

3. Although we as a Government have weathered the storm of the initial reactions to GRC 127, I think we should be somewhat embarrassed that we are not in a position, or at least have taken no steps to be in a position, to ascertain exactly what has happened. I wonder if now is not the time to establish a commo plan with all U-2 pilots [redacted] in order that they may keep the troops on the ground fully informed should an emergency occur. 25X1A

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I realize that this thought is not novel and that we have used the [redacted] to advise ETA's and also some simple code concerning weather encountered on a mission; however, I think we ought to devise an operating procedure concerning communications during overflight operations.

25X1

SIGNED

JOHN N. McMAHON
Executive Officer, OSA

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